

St. Margaret's Chapel
141 Hickory Avenue
Bel Air
Private

Gothic was "the only proper style" for a Christian Church in the 19th century. Churches built in Bel Air during the period from 1860 to the First World War were all built in that style. They varied considerably in complexity. This little carpenter gothic structure is one of the happiest, if the latest, of those churches. With its board and batten construction, its pointed arch windows and its little bell tower it is a warm and friendly expression of a style which can be cold or awesome. It was built in 1905 by Father J. Alphonse Frederick to be Bel Air's first Roman Catholic Church. In its homely way it represents a unity of thought rare in Christendom. All local sects reached back to the years before western Christianity had splintered to express their fundamental similarity of purpose: the worship of God.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-260
1302604708

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Margaret's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

" "

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

141 Hickory Avenue

1st

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

— VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES, RESTRICTED☐ YES, UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER Offices**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Archdiocese of Baltimore

Telephone #: 547-5437

STREET & NUMBER

320 Cathedral Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NK 34

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small and charming carpenter gothic chapel dominates a little knoll on the east side of Hickory just north of its intersection with Lee Way, in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. A quaint refugee from the mid-nineteenth century, it was built in 1905. It has all of the characteristics of the proper Gothic Revival small parish church: board and batten siding, steeply pitched gable roof in patterned tile, projecting rafters, entrance porches, bell cote. The chancel even has a different roof line to distinguish it from the nave. Its pitch is the same as that of the main block, but it is not so tall. Whether this chancel is an addition or not is not clear. It has a cement block foundation while the nave has a stone rubble foundation. It has tar paper on the roof, while the nave's roof is of tile, and its window (on the north elevation) is pointed arch window and surround, while those of the nave are rectangular. The differences (except for the tar paper) can be accounted for by the fact that the chancel is the site of the most holy parts of the Mass and is thus separated from the more mundane nave.

The facade (west elevation) is divided sharply into three bays by the central gable roofed entrance porch. Double seven panel doors are topped by a narrow horizontal transom, an entablature, and a pediment which echoes the pitch of the roof but which is too small for the entablature. The rafters project here, as they do on the main roof. Two square stained glass windows in plain surrounds flank the entrance porch, their sills almost level with the bottom of the porch roof. A diamond-shaped stained glass window decorates the gable. The aisleless nave is five bays long on the north elevation (one bay is in the chancel); a roofed small gable entrance porch is on this side in the last east bay of the nave. It has a four panel door. On the south elevation a two bay ell is at right angles to the building in the easternmost two bays. This gable roofed, single story ell once housed the sacristy. It has 6/6 double hung sash windows and a seven panel door (north to south). A thin stove chimney rises behind the fourth window on the south elevation.

The back of the chancel (the east elevation) is entirely plain save for a diamond-shaped stained glass window in the gable and a string course of batten which crosses at eave level giving the gable the look of a pediment.

The tiny bell tower with its bell still suspended has a cross at the front (west) gable ridge.

The chapel is now used for parish offices and has been subdivided, but one can still see the tongue & groove wainscoting. The ceiling has been dropped to the level of the floor of the choir loft for warmth and fuel economy, but if one climbs the steep stairs (southwest corner) to the loft one can see the unadorned roof over a sea of pink insulation. No hammer beam roof and no exposed rafters.

This simple and reverent Gothic Revival chapel shows in a concrete way (actually, board and batten way) exactly what the Ecclesiologists meant when they chose this style for their church reform movement.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

44-270

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1905	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small Gothic Revival chapel was built in 1905 by Rev. J. Alphonse Frederick, the pastor of St. Ignatius Church at Hickory. He had purchased the three acres on which the church and rectory stand at his own expense in 1901 for \$3,500 and built the chapel at his own expense. In 1919 he transferred it to James Cardinal Gibbons, the Archbishop of Baltimore (164/27). In 1969 the new church was built and the chapel became the parish offices.

There is no evidence that an architect had anything to do with the building. By 1905 the Gothic Revival had become such a normal idiom for the small parish church that no design was needed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Bel Air Centennial Book

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies the south portion of parcel #605 in the Town of Bel Air, 3a.±

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	29 May 1979
M. Larew, Architectural Historian	DATE
ORGANIZATION	838-8700
Town of Bel Air	TELEPHONE
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
39 Hickory	Maryland
CITY OR TOWN	
Bel Air	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1302604502
N. R. FIELD SHEET

HA 260

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704

ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: <i>St Marys Chapel</i>	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>East side of Hickory Avenue opposite Gordon Street.</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Bel Air</i>			
STATE: <i>Maryland</i>	COOE	COUNTY: <i>Harford</i>	CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Church <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	COOE	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. <i>CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT</i>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>BEL AIR</i>	STATE: <i>MARYLAND</i>	COOE	
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	COOE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small, dark and rotten wood chapel
 has 5 windows on the north side, 4 on
 the south, of Tiffany stained glass.
 An enclosed entrance is on the west end
 of the chapel whose ridgepole runs east-west.
 A vestry is added to the east end of the
 south wall. A small belfry is over the
 ridgepole at the west end of the building.
 A vestry is added at the ~~west end~~ east end of the
 south wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐lasaphy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

c. 1905
 Long outgrown by this parish, the Chapel
 has been used for early morning services only
 while the later services were held in the school
 gymnasium behind the elementary school. Now
 a church, built in 1968, makes this little
 building obsolete.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

JEAN S. EWING

ORGANIZATION

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

50 STATE CIRCLE

CITY OR TOWN:

ANNAPOLIS

STATE

MARYLAND

CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-260

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

St. Margaret's Chapel

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE: *Church repairs*

ORIGINAL USE: *Church*

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:

Excellent (☒) Good ()

Fair () Poor ()

THEME: *Architecture*

STYLE: *Georgian Colonial, Revival*

DATE BUILT: *1905*

COUNTY: *Harford*

TOWN: *Beltan*

LOCATION: *141 Hickory Ave*

COMMON NAME:

St. Margaret's Chapel

FUNCTIONAL TYPE:

OWNER: *141 Hickory Ave* *Archdiocese of Baltimore*

ADDRESS: *320 Cathedral St.*

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

Yes () No () Restricted ()

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Local () State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone (☒) Brick () Concrete () Concrete Block ()

2. Wall Structure

A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()

B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()

C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:

3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten (☒) Wood Shingle () Shiplap ()

Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()

Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer ()

Bonding Pattern:

Other:

4. Roof Structure

A. Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel () Concrete ()

B. Other: *patterned*

5. Roof Covering: Slate (☒) Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()

Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:

6. Engineering Structure:

7. Other:

Appendages: Porches (☒) Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds () Ells ()

Wings () Other: *bell cote*

Roof Style: Gable () Hip () Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()

Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet () With False Front ()

Other:

Number of Stories: *1*

Number of Bays: *3* *X 6*

Approximate Dimensions: *30' X 60' (main body)*

Entrance Location: *Hickory Ave.*

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat (☒) Zoning () Roads ()

Development () Deterioration ()

Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive (☒) Negative ()

Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Rectangular stained glass windows in plain surrounds of flat
window which has pointed ^{double hung} surround (flashes in channel?) back addit
on cement block - raised basement toward back 3/4 windows - entrance
porch on side (next to rectory) gable roof - 4 panel door 1/2 windows - entrance
back elev (E) plain ~~except for~~ line (string course) at one line &
diamond shaped ~~window~~ in gable in plain surround - all on S side
1/6 windows 7 panel door slate roof bell in bell cote, gable roofed
board & batten - front entrance porch double 7 panel door, narrow
horizontal + transom, entablature + ~~pediment~~ ^{Redwood} over door, ~~flat~~ gable roof
on projecting rafters (roof also) square stained glass windows in
gable end (front) + diamond vent in gable + wainscoting tongue

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

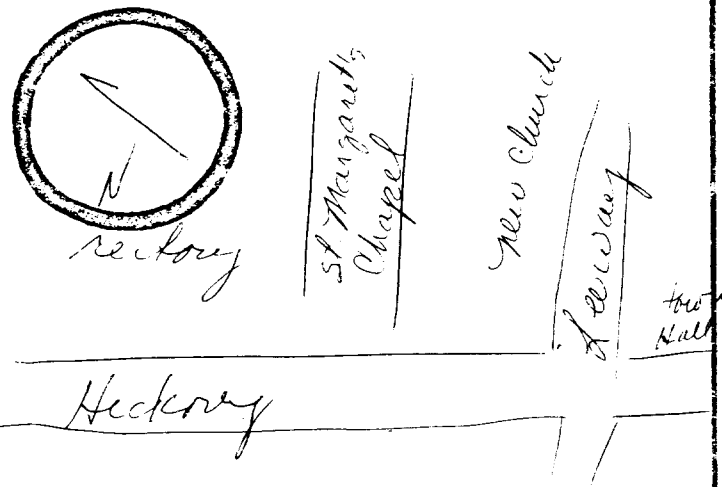
+ groove E chair rail - windows - memorial - exterior all offices today
paneled E
into ~~entrance~~ dropped ceiling & dropped to level of under chair loft
loft used for storage - paneled back wall 2 offices + meeting room
painted in S ell plan ceiling, dark

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

1st catholic church in town, architecture Carpenter Gothic - rather late
but handsome

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
Residential() Commercial()
Agricultural() Industrial()
Roadside Strip Development()
Other:

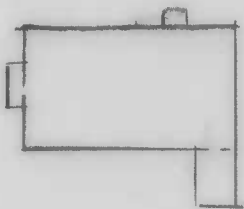
RECORDED BY: M. Larew
ORGANIZATION: Town of Bel Air
DATE RECORDED: 29 May 79

TITLE:
ST. MARGARET'S CHAPEL AND RECTORY

164/27 1 May 1919
J. Alphonse Frederick, Baltimore County
 to
James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of
Baltimore
3 a.± the land on which the chapel and
Pastor's residence stand

100/465 7 January 1901
Thomas Robinson, trustee
 to
Alphonse Frederick

42/495 7 April 1881
Edwin H. Webster
 to
Laura C. Raitt
by 20/342 1868 Webster registered a
deed by which he promised to convey
the property to Cassandra Raitt (she
had paid him \$1000) or her heirs. She
died and left it to Laura Raitt (1870,
will 8/154). This deed confirms 20/342.



Traced by
M. LAREW

ST. MARGARET'S CHAPEL
NICKORY AVE.
BEL AIR
HA-260

scale 1" = 50'
↑
N





114-260 St Margaret's Chapel, W. A. Richards
detail of wall
M. Lacroix, 1979.